



Activities:

Activities will be age appropriate and are developed for students to extend their knowledge by exploring the concepts surrounding treaties. These include symbols, what the buffalo gave First Nation people, what First Nation people gave to the settlers and to the RCMP. The RCMP will be linked to the program to enhance the learning experience and to ensure that our students understand that all communities are and were affected by this history. We are all "treaty people". Students will also get to see what a treaty document looks like. After exploring the exhibit "Clearing the Path: An Exhibition of Traditional Indigenous Art." Students may create their own art works using the design principles of the traditional Indigenous artist.



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"Our Treaties" 2009



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“Our Treaties”



Exhibit #1:

The RCMP was established to build relations with the First Nations People, to help establish the railroad and to minimize conflicts surrounding the whiskey trade. Students will discover reasons why numbered treaties were needed by the First Nations, the settlers and Sir John A. McDonald, as well as, the role the RCMP played at the time. With the wonderful use of this wall sized map, the students will gain a sense of what Canada looked like then, and how it came to be Canada as we know it today. Discussions about Manitoba and Louis Riel are introduced in this exhibit. Students will also learn about the March West and how Jerry Potts, a Métis guide, helped the RCMP to reach their destination.



Exhibit #2:

Sitting Bull was from the United States, he had a great relationship with RCMP member James Walsh. He was of the Sioux, which was one of the seven tribes represented in the Lakota. Here the students can see how the settlers and the RCMP might have benefited from First Nations and Métis people. Students will learn more about Louis Riel and the Métis people, gaining a better understanding of why he was executed. Students will learn that the Métis were not part of the treaties, and begin to understand what this meant for the Métis people at the time. A pipe stem is a symbol of peace and good order and was part of the treaty process. Students will see a pipe stem and be introduced to the other symbols used in treaty-making, in Saskatchewan.



Exhibit #3:

The government originally didn't want to negotiate treaties #8 and #10, as they had nothing to gain until the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1899, First Nations people disallowed miners on the land until a treaty was negotiated, this is when treaty #8 came into place. Treaty #10 was negotiated under the same circumstances in 1906. It was then, as settlers were streaming in to seek out gold, that the government was ready to negotiate treaties.



Exhibit #4:

This more current exhibit talks about the involvement of the RCMP in conflicts and wars. Students will gain an understanding of how the RCMP were in place to enforce the law, therefore played a roll in the residential schools. The 1885 Rebellion is discussed further in this exhibit.